

THE ASYLUM

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Numismatic Bibliomania Society

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U.S. CIVIL WAR STORE CARDS

George and Melvin Fuld



Second Edition

*Books are
the lighthouses
erected in
the great sea
of time.*

Edwin P. Whipple
1819-1886

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The Asylum

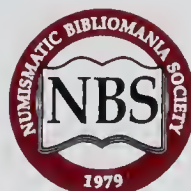
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Front cover: The second edition of George and Melvin Fuld's classic work on Civil War store cards (image courtesy of Tony J. Lopez).



From the Editor-in-Chief

In the November 16, 2013, auction sale conducted by Charlie Davis, Michael Sullivan had consigned 179 lots of auction catalogues, fixed price lists and periodicals authored by Wayte Raymond over fifty years. This vast assemblage of Raymond material represents an extraordinary collecting achievement. Indeed, it is so extraordinary that I have asked Michael to write about the effort involved in some future issue. Lot 180 in the sale was a bibliography of the collection, one of six copies made by Sullivan; fittingly, this copy sold for three times the estimate. The primary purpose of *The Asylum* is to celebrate numismatic literature, but we need also to celebrate those who collect it.

Speaking of Wayte Raymond, his obituary appeared in *The Numismatist* in 1956, but “A Tribute to Wayte Raymond” did not appear until the February 1957 issue. This piece won a Heath Literary Award for its author, John J Ford, Jr., and is highly recommended reading. The man was a giant, fully deserving of the obsession of Michael Sullivan with his written product.

Speaking of “written product” and speaking of Ford, the man was quick to announce his intention to write a book but then that book would never get written. The man’s silence is a great pity, because the man knew a lot that died with him. Which brings us to the subject of Karl Moulton’s book, *John J. Ford, Jr. and the “Franklin Hoard”*. Elizabeth Hahn did an outstanding job of reporting on our Symposium, which featured Karl and his epic. The book—all 924 pages of it—deserves more discussion than it has received. The review in this issue is meant to stimulate more consideration of this wealth of information and the many questions that remain unanswered.

By now, most members will have heard of the passing of George Fuld. A longtime member of the NBS, George was expert in many areas of numismatics, including Civil War tokens, Washingtonia, and Indian peace medals. He published voluminously in these areas and many others. Of greatest interest to book lovers, George and his father Melvin

built a numismatic library that was the finest of its day. Father and son set out to acquire everything American that was listed in the ANS catalogues and very nearly succeeded. George's particular passion was auction catalogues, where he completed or nearly completed every series in the book. The dispersal of his vast holdings via several Katzen sales in 1970 and 1971 chummed the waters, as it were, for major collectors of catalogues since that time. Indeed, we credit Fuld and Frank Katzen for rescuing the genre from the Dark Ages that set in during the 1880s and lasted for nearly a century thereafter.

Despite his vast knowledge and strong academic credentials (he earned a PhD from MIT), George Fuld was a modest man who never paraded his learning. This endearing attribute and many others are captured in a magnificent tribute authored by Tony Lopez and included in this issue. Please read and re-read Tony's piece, it is guaranteed to make you proud of indulging in a hobby of which George Fuld was a part.

With this issue, the Editor-in-Chief's baton passes to Elizabeth Hahn Bengtson, the popular Librarian of the American Numismatic Society. Elizabeth's talents will take *The Asylum* to new heights. When cajoling likely authors for articles, we have often found the response to be glacial, but we are confident that Elizabeth will receive a much more enthusiastic response.

—John W. Adams

Hidden Voices in the ANS Archives: Emmanuel J. Attinelli Heard Again

Arnold Tescher

When it comes to numismatics, a collector's old scrapbooks can be both an invaluable reference source and teaching aid—especially if those scrapbooks were assembled by Richard Hoe Lawrence (1858–1936), whose scrapbooks repose in the archives of the American Numismatic Society. Mr. Lawrence was a numismatic collector and ANS librarian from 1880 to 1886. And some old scrapbooks, particularly Lawrence's, are really unburied time capsules. You just have to open the cover to walk back in time. Such was the case concerning a very interesting find I discovered pasted into one of two scrapbooks that I had the pleasure of working on as a volunteer archival assistant at ANS. Richard Hoe Lawrence has been described as a “superlative scholar and savant.” And his two scrapbooks bear witness to a meticulous cataloguing of clippings from newspapers, magazines, and other publications, as well as flyers, advertisements, and publications on the history of coin collecting.

My job was to convert Lawrence's handwritten tables of contents from both scrapbooks so as to make the subjects searchable once the data are installed on the ANS website by the Society's archivist, David Hill. It was about this time that I read a very interesting *Coin World* column written by Joel Orosz concerning Emmanuel Joseph Attinelli's 1876 book *Numisgraphics* and, as Joel writes, the two remaining “mysteries” surrounding the book: what became of the ten “large paper” copies of *Numisgraphics*, and what was the fate of the famous Watkins Broadside reprints, thirty of which were printed by Attinelli and only one of which, as Joel pointed out, resides at the ANS? Where, Joel asked, are the other twenty-nine?

Up until this time I had never heard of Attinelli, but reading Joel's column piqued my interest to the point that before I could finish reading his column, I immediately went to the ANS website to search for

the book. Not only did I find it listed there but I also found another (annotated) copy! Armed with my “discovery” I dashed off an email to Joel asserting that there are now only twenty-eight “copies” missing rather than twenty-nine! Well, the joke was on me (sort of) because I confused the Watkins Broadside mentioned in Joel’s article (of which in fact ANS has one original and one copy) with the “small paper” editions of Attinelli’s book. My “discovery” was a second copy of *Numisgraphics* and *not* a second original Watkins Broadside. End of story, so I thought. But the story did not end there.

In Part III of *Numisgraphics*, titled “Publications Issued in the United States,” Attinelli suggested that “In the daily papers are frequently articles of importance, which may be cut out and pasted in a scrap book, to which a suitable ‘INDEX’ of subjects should be kept.” Apparently Attinelli and Lawrence were of the same mind, albeit at different points in time.

Back to the Lawrence scrapbook. As mentioned, I was transcribing its table of contents when my finger came to an entry written in Lawrence’s fine hand: “Numisgraphics by Attinelli” (fig. 1). If not for Joel Orosz’s article to arouse my curiosity and David Hill assigning me the scrapbooks, this entry would probably have gone unnoticed. So I eagerly turned, as directed, to page 24 in the scrapbook and found an advertisement for a book on “Coinages of the World”. What happened

Solomon's Dodge Washington Medal	28
Study of Coins see Fortnightly Review	50
Pine tree shilling	16
Numisgraphics by Attinelli	28 24
Pininford medal	40
Solomon's Dodge Washington Medal by J. F. Wood	28

Figure 1.

to *Numisgraphics*? I flipped back a leaf and there it was on page 22: a contemporary (albeit anonymous) review of *Numisgraphics*! Until now there was only one known contemporary description of *Numisgraphics* (Édouard Frossard's very short "review" in *Numisma*, March 1877, vol. 2). With apologies to John W. Adams' fine scholarship, my scrapbook find had now doubled the population! The "new" review, most likely published in 1876 or 1877, not only echoes Frossard's terse comment ("...a work which in somewhat condensed space gives us considerable information concerning the history of celebrated American numismatists, and the public sales of coins...") but gives the Attinelli book the respect it deserves. One could speculate that Attinelli himself penned the review: "The collection of numismatic book[s], pamphlets, auction-catalogues, periodicals and dealers' price lists is attended with the same degree of pleasure and interest as that of collecting coins and medals themselves." Once you've read the whole review (fig. 2), you'll want to buy the book! I did—a digitized print-to-order, Google book. Upon reading the book, it became apparent to me that the author was truly immersed in the project and dedicated to providing the reader with an honest educational tool. What power a book review written more than 137 years ago can have!

Not surprisingly, there are other items to be found at the ANS relating to Attinelli, as he was a member of ANS from 1885 until his death in 1895. I recently discovered a letter penned by Mr. Attinelli to Isaac F. Wood (librarian at the American Numismatic Society, 1869–1880), dated March 1, 1877. No doubt in response to Wood's "postal card," Attinelli apologized for a typo in Wood's initials appearing in *Numisgraphics* as J.F.W. instead of I.F.W. Wrote Attinelli: "The initial letter on page 98, I seem to have overlooked in correcting proof as you will see that I had the full name [correct] on p. 65. I's and J's... are the compositors traps, and has proved to be mine." Ironically, had Mr. Wood not changed his name from F. Augustus Wood to Isaac F. Wood in 1868, the typo might never have occurred. Not long after "discovering" the second copy of *Numisgraphics* in the archive, I came across a questionnaire, one of many sent to ANS members like Attinelli, by the Society's historiographer in the 1890s (fig. 3). In response to a question asking whether the member had published "any book, pamphlet, or article," Mrs. Attinelli, answering for her recently deceased husband, replied: "Pamphlet printed, called Numisgraphic, published in N. York City about 1877 or 1878. Copies already furnished to the Library of the Society." Presumably, these are

NUMISGRAPHICS, by E. J. Attinelli, No. 241 East 57th St., New York. 123 pages, royal 8 vo. Price, Two dollars. *On large, fine tinted paper, Ten dollars.*

Numisgraphics is a new word, but its author gives us its definitions: A list of catalogues, in which occur coins or medals which have been sold by auction in the United States; also, a list of catalogues or price-lists of coins, issued by dealers; also, a list of various publications of more or less interest to numismatologists, which have been published in the United States. The collection of numismatic book, pamphlets, auction-catalogues, periodicals and dealers' price-lists is attended with the same degree of pleasure and interest as that of collecting coins and medals themselves. No collector can become proficient in the knowledge of the inscriptions, devices, etc., of his coins without a guide-book; he is continually seeking information, and would often buy books if he knew where he could make purchases. Mr. Attinelli has succeeded in giving us a ready reference book—a reliable directory, containing reports of all sales in the United States; names of coin dealers who have published price-lists; and names of all coin books—authors, etc.,—and periodicals that have been published in the United States. We have in the first half of the book condensed reports of all the sales, commencing with the first, in 1828, (The catalogue of which is illustrated in photo-lithograph and inserted as a frontispiece to the book,) and ending with the last sale of 1875. An interesting feature of the work is the biographic sketches of most of our prominent numismatists, accompanying the reports of their respective sales. They all seem to have made "Cents" the prime feature of their incipient collections; and by this precedent beginners of to-day fight it out on that line. The limited number of copies that have been printed bear evidence to the fact that the author hardly expects to be compensated pecuniarily, but performs this apparent labor of love to supply a long felt want.

Figure 2.

14. If you have written any book, pamphlet or article which has been printed, state when and where published, and give titles in full, and please furnish copies to the Library of the Society. .1. *Pamphlet printed, called*

Numisgraphic, published in N. York City about 1877 or 1878. Copies already furnished to the Library of the Society

Figure 3.

the same copies mentioned above. The questionnaire also asked for an autographed "photographic likeness," which Mrs. Attinelli sent (fig. 4).

In the 1976 reprint of *Numisgraphics*, John W. Adams' brief biographical note on Attinelli points out that he became a medical doctor, having abandoned his business for medical school shortly after publishing his book. In time, Dr. Attinelli had established his medical practice among the Italian immigrant population. Another interesting (non-numismatic) item I came across was an 1885 newspaper article that never found its way into Richard Hoe Lawrence's scrapbook. What could "An Italian Husband Who Imagined His Wife Was Poisoned" have to do with Emanuel Attinelli? The quoted headline, appearing in the Decem-



Figure 4.

ber 18, 1885, issue of the *New York Herald*, put Dr. Attinelli temporarily in the hot seat. As the article reported, Laura Peroni, a young Italian immigrant, died suddenly. Discovered by her husband Louis, he immediately summoned his druggist friend to examine his wife. As the news story reported, the druggist declared that she was poisoned. The deputy coroner was later called in and the husband made his suspicions known. The coroner's autopsy, however, maintained that the woman died from natural causes. But the druggist friend was not satisfied with the coroner's opinion and had a chemical analysis made by a doctor who thought he detected the presence of strychnine. At the husband's request, the case was reopened and it was revealed that the woman had been to visit a public health facility where she was examined and given a prescription by a Dr. Emmanuel Attinelli. All parties, including the druggist who filled the prescription and Dr. Attinelli were then summoned to the coroner's office, where Dr. Attinelli told the coroner and a jury that he was glad the investigation was held. As the article reported, Dr. Attinelli was eager to have his good name cleared owing to rumors about his conduct. The remedies he prescribed, he said, "were simple medicines and contained no dangerous ingredients." He then presented a copy of his prescription. After both the druggist and deputy coroner testified, the article concludes: "Without leaving their seats, the jury returned a verdict sustaining the deputy coroner's report, exonerating Dr. Attinelli and the druggist who furnished the medicine from all blame."

For me, the Lawrence scrapbooks truly did open a window to the past, as will the many documents still waiting to be rediscovered at ANS. Not only did they reveal a hitherto unknown body of information about Attinelli's great book, they also pointed me in the direction to learn more about this somewhat enigmatic nineteenth-century collector, who in the words of John W. Adams, was "undoubtedly the first bibliomaniac." And yes, Mr. Adams, the "disease" is indeed communicable.

Thomas Elder's Commission Campaign

Thomas D. Harrison

The following narrative was derived from correspondence written or received by Thomas Elder in connection with his sale of the Dr. George Alfred Lawrence coin collection.

As January 1929 was drawing to a close, Thomas Elder received a letter dated January 17 from William H. Austin, president of Astor Audit and Appraisal Corp. of New York. Enclosed was a \$75 check for the partial appraisal of the Dr. George Alfred Lawrence coin collection. Austin informed Elder the coins constituted nearly all of the monetary value of the estate; hence he encouraged Elder to accept the \$75 as full payment which would include the balance of the appraisal. Austin concluded he was confident their alliance would produce mutual benefits and promised to persuade the estate to employ Elder to conduct the sale.

In 1929 Thomas Elder was arguably the preeminent American numismatic dealer since Samuel H. Chapman concluded his stellar auction career on June 9, 1924, with the F. R. Alvord sale. In addition, twilight had settled upon his brother Henry Chapman's calling, for he conducted only two auctions that post-dated the Lawrence sale. The Stack's auction legacy would not commence until 1935, leaving B. Max Mehl and Wayte Raymond as Elder's most formidable rivals.

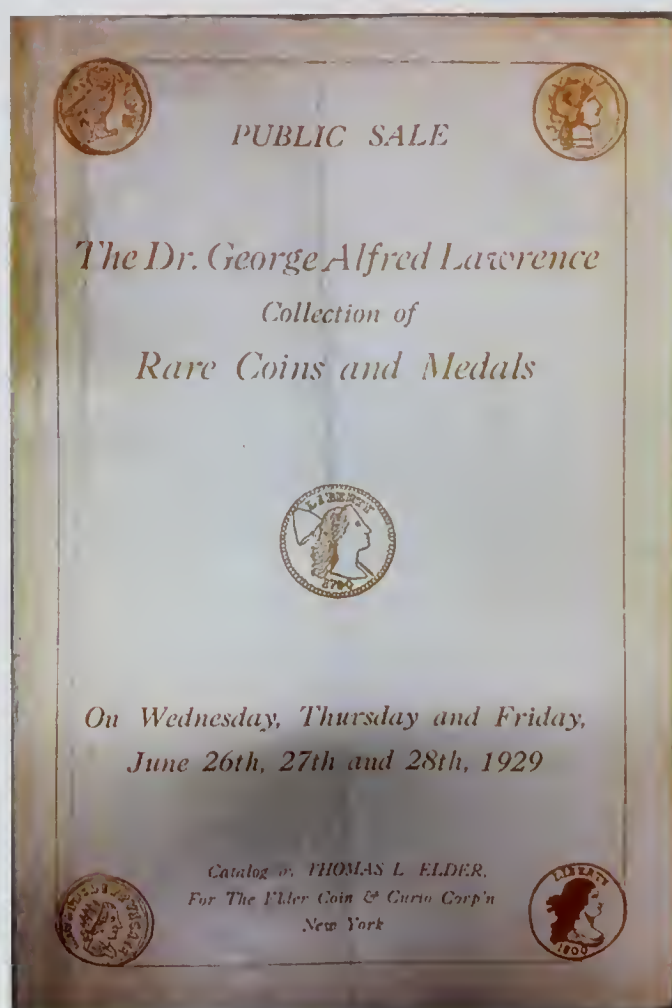
In a letter dated February 13, 1929, Elder outlined his commission strategy to Austin. He also included a \$30 invoice for the remainder of his appraisal explaining he spent three times the effort on the final three sessions as on the first one. He added he was eager to get cracking; however, he required at least a month's vacation "to prepare for the rigorous work." Austin's reply encouraged Elder to meet him face-to-face to hammer out the details of the sale. Austin interjected a bit of subtle groundwork for future negotiations, saying, "It is perfectly proper that if I bring you any business that I should share in your commission and the people that I do business with will so understand, and they will

be only too glad to have me make some money as compensation for my services." This comment was the seed that grew to aggravate Elder for the next several years.

Elder's signed letter dated March 27, 1929, agreed to pay Austin an inordinate 5.5% of his 20% commission, if he negotiated his requested fee. Mindful of Elder's experience with estate sales, the surrender of over 25% of his commission for a referral fee appears rather perplexing. Possibly during a closed-door conference, Austin threatened to award the collection to B. Max Mehl or Wayte Raymond if he did not receive adequate compensation. Or perhaps the glint of territorial gold distorted his perception in believing the coins would guarantee an unimaginable bonanza. Whatever his rationale, Elder's commission blunder was about to initiate a series of maneuvers to backpedal on his agreement.

Elder's next letter, dated March 28, 1929, is addressed to the office of O'Brien, Boardman, Fox, Memhard, and Early, attorneys for Mr. Curt Von Boetticher Jr., executor of the estate. In Elder's request to auction the collection, he spelled out his attributes, commission rates, and responsibilities. Part of his pitch included a prediction that four coins would collectively realize over \$10,000 and a promise to distribute 1500 catalogues throughout the country. Elder indicated the lucrative auction season was late spring or early summer because vacationing collectors traveling to New York relish the experience of personally attending sales. Presumably, the detailed four-page letter could have been reduced to the first sentence in which he stated, "At the suggestion of Mr. W.H. Austin..." With Austin's 5.5% referral fee virtually in hand, Elder's request was a mere formality for on April 1, 1929, Elder received confirmation from the O'Brien group to proceed with the Lawrence sale. Terms of the agreement included a 20% commission and a sale date no later than July 1, 1929.

Elder's vacation paid exceptional dividends as he produced a marvelous 107-page catalogue consisting of 1544 lots to showcase Dr. Lawrence's legacy. Issued in a regular edition and a deluxe format with 22 well-executed plates, the sale was scheduled for June 26–28, 1929. The January 7, 2012, Kolbe & Fanning auction catalogue provided the following description: "A perplexing Elder production, rarely encountered with all of the photographic plates originally prepared. Often copies come with only one or two specialized sections of the plates; there are



also at least three different varieties of the text; and even the prices realized list comes on regular and thick paper."

John W. Adams' indispensable work, *United States Numismatic Literature, Volume 2*, rates the Lawrence sale A+. He summarizes the highlights as "Biography of Lawrence. Superb ancients. Outstanding medieval: Anglo-Saxon, coins of the Crusades. Definitive Maltese. Siege pieces. Baltimore shilling, 6 pence. Perhaps best territorial gold ever: 1850, 1851 Baldwin \$10; Gem Humbert 1851 \$50 (3); Kellogg's own 1855 \$50; Mass. & Cal. \$5; Schultz \$5; superb fractionals; Cal. gold notes."

The catalogue's introduction provides a biographical sketch of Dr. Lawrence written by Von Boetticher at the cataloguer's request. It states that George Alfred Lawrence was born on June 6, 1869, in Lawrence, California, a settlement established by his forefathers. Lawrence's rich ancestry dated back to 1635 when his ancestors immigrated to America. A later generation served in the American Revolution, prompting

Lawrence to seek membership in the Sons of the American Revolution. Undoubtedly, Lawrence's California heritage was the driving force behind his zeal for American territorial gold coinage. After receiving his diploma as a member of the first graduating class of Leland Stanford University, he pursued a medical degree from the University of Michigan. Following graduation, he embarked upon a distinguished medical career as a renowned neurologist, writing a number of works on the subject. The doctor was one of a handful of Americans to achieve honorary membership in the Authors Club of London. Attaining the status of a 33rd-degree Mason would account for his fascination with coins related to the Knights of St. John and Grand Masters of Cyprus, Rhodes, and Malta.

In the June 1929 issue of *The Numismatist*, we discover a sale preview and Elder's full-page ad detailing the particulars of the auction. The large-edition catalogue with plates was offered for \$5. The promotional ad concluded with a bit of salesmanship, "Don't miss this, our greatest coin sale. You will find New York a pleasant Summer Resort, a fine place to spend your vacation. Don't miss the sale."

The Numismatist provided a critique of the record-breaking results of the Lawrence sale in the August issue. Twenty-two years earlier, on June 25, 1907, Henry Chapman established a new record price for a United States coin, tendering a \$6200 bid for the Brasher doubloon in his Stickney sale. The Lawrence sale again provided Chapman an opportunity to step up to the plate to maintain his record-setting pace with a \$7900 bid on the Massachusetts & California Co. 1849 \$5 gold piece. He also claimed runner-up with a \$7000 bid for the Wass Molitor & Co. large-head 1855 \$20. The procession of rarities continued with the Dubosq & Co. 1850 \$10 realizing \$3900 and a Shults & Co. 1851 \$5 fetching \$3700. The review summarized the sale, saying, "Great rarity, coupled with finest condition, influenced extraordinary prices for many lots." Although the sale represented a remarkable numismatic smorgasbord, grossing \$49,092, the American territorial gold carried the day accounting for approximately 10% of the lots while yielding over 80% of the proceeds.

Indubitably, a resentful Elder knew his begrudging referral payout of \$2596 on August 1 to W.H. Austin was virtually enough to put his nemesis in the driver's seat of a luxurious new Packard. It is easy to imagine Elder plotting a strategy to renege on his commission misstep

before the ink was dry on the check. Within 24 hours, Elder composed a letter to the O'Brien group voicing his "disappointment and dissatisfaction" with the 5.5% commission. Elder pleaded his case saying that if the sale had been conducted by Anderson's or the American Art Gallery (Raymond), the estate would have been fortunate to collect \$25,000 rather than the nearly \$40,000 he secured. He was willing to compensate Austin but believed \$500 would be appropriate. An incensed Elder indicated that Austin had offered to reduce the fee by a mere \$100. To this indignant proposition Elder replied, "This was nothing. I am very much dissatisfied and consider I worked too hard and did the Estate too good [sic] service to be so poorly rewarded. I would like a reply." Interposed within the wrangle, Elder insinuated that a collaborative scheme was devised between the O'Brien group and Austin, alleging, "I strongly suspect others were in on this 5.5%." Elder's untenable dispute with the O'Brien group reached its climax in an August 8 letter when he vented that he had signed the contract to pay Austin 5.5% of his commission "under protest." Elder explained Austin's rationale for the inflated commission, revealing he had worked with the O'Brien group for fifteen years and "had to 'take care of certain people,' whatever that means." The O'Brien group's return volley explained, "We are at a loss to know what to say in reply to your letters." They reiterated their position that Elder and Austin entered into a contract and they were ready to wash their hands of the matter. This retort apparently lay to rest Elder's efforts to receive any financial satisfaction from Austin or the O'Brien group.

Next we encounter Elder, atop his soapbox, expounding before the collecting populace in the September issue of *The Numismatist* by penning an article entitled "The Modern Cataloguer's Commissions." Elder set the stage for his justification by noting the exorbitant commissions charged by New York art dealers, claiming many art consigners were "flattered" to receive 50% of the hammer price. He confessed to an "unwise agreement to sell" the Dr. Lawrence collection for a small commission in which he suffered "actual loss." He could not recall a sale since entering the business with so much work and such a slim profit, declaring "The worst rub of all" was that he paid the man who provided the referral over 25% of his commission. Elder's parting sentiments summarized his argument: "Rest assured the American cataloguer does not want the earth, but he should and must receive a fair return for his services."

On May 13, 1931, in a last-ditch effort, an exasperated Elder turned his crusade to Stanford University, which he believed to be an heir to the Lawrence estate. If Elder read the *New York Herald Tribune* on January 3, 1929, six days after Dr. Lawrence's death, he would have learned the doctor willed \$1,000,000 to both Stanford University and the All University Club, of which he was a founding member. In addition, Lawrence bequeathed an equal allocation of his residuary estate, which undoubtedly included his coin collection, to Stanford and the All University Club. Unfortunately, Stanford and their attorneys did not reveal any information to Elder's multiple inquiries throughout the summer. Then on September 10, 1931, tenacious Tom authored a final rationalization to E. S. Erwin, assistant comptroller at Stanford, stating in part, "I am not fishing for more money, but I am surely interested in knowing how these people acted at this end. As the matter now stands there is room for serious doubt about this matter. Believe me." Near the end of the letter Elder unleashed one last conspiracy-theory allegation, claiming Von Boetticher was a member of the O'Brien group. Indeed the executor was a 28-year-old New York attorney in 1929, so it is plausible (although unsubstantiated) that he had been a junior member in the firm. To what degree Elder's accusations of a ploy to embezzle proceeds from the Lawrence coin collection were a fabrication or an unembellished truth remains a matter of conjecture. On May 26, 1933, nearly four years after the saga began, Erwin notified Elder that Stanford did not receive any proceeds from the Lawrence collection. Erwin stated, "the Estate was so involved with expenses that it took practically all of the money which was received from the sale of the coins to meet the obligations."

This letter appears to be the final chapter in Elder's campaign against Austin and the O'Brien group. Elder's erratic temperament has been well documented and these surviving letters provide one more fascinating glimpse into his persona. Although Elder was unable to receive any satisfaction from Austin or the O'Brien group, the circumstantial evidence must have confirmed, in Elder's mind, that his instincts were correct concerning the unconscionable evaporation of nearly \$40,000 in Depression-era proceeds (equivalent to over \$500,000 today) from the Dr. Lawrence coin collection.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A special thank you to Librarian Elizabeth Hahn and Archivist David Hill of the ANS and the New York Public Library for their assistance.

Hints on Self-Publishing

Bill Bugert

With the availability of powerful, easy-to-use personal computing and high-quality, inexpensive digital imaging, it is now tempting to self-publish almost any information. The purpose of this article is to relate my experiences with the labors of self-publishing to make it easier for those of you who may be thinking about taking the plunge but are not sure how to begin or what may lie ahead. I hope that instead of labor, it will become a labor of love.

First, here is some background. I have authored or co-authored five numismatic books, four of which I self-published in the past five years. They are all on the single topic of Liberty Seated half dollar (LSHD) varieties. The first book, *The Complete Guide to Liberty Seated Half Dollars*, I co-authored with Randy Wiley, with DLRC Press publishing it in 1993. That book contained a listing of the top 300 or so die varieties for Liberty Seated half dollars, with enough information to help the beginning to intermediate-level collector of that series.

After lifetimes of concentrating on this series (between us, Randy and I have over 70 years studying this series), it was always our dream to publish complete listings of all the die marriages of the LSHD series to aid the advanced collector. By 2008, it was decision time. Both Randy and I were retired; we realized we were not getting any younger and, with the amount of effort we foresaw, it would not get any easier. We scoped the effort and figured there were approximately 2,000 LSHD die marriages. By comparison, there are well-documented, highly respected references for all the Bust coinage denominations. Most of those references individually document fewer than 200 die marriages for the series, while none of those references contain any more than 500 (see figure 1). We soon realized that achieving our dream would be a massive effort and that it would have to be done in stages, i.e., many volumes. More importantly, we realized that the Bust coinage series are very popular,

NUMBER OF DIE MARRIAGES A COMPARISON

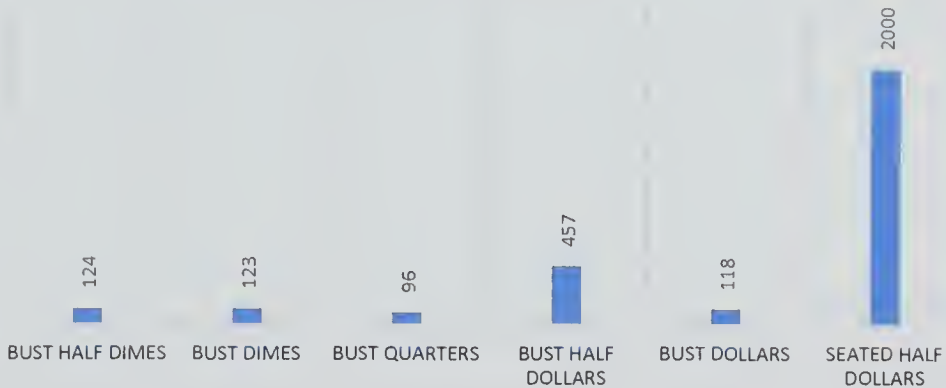


Figure 1. Number of die marriages.

with a large collector base of intense competition for many die varieties. The LSHD series does not enjoy that popularity and any references would initially have meager followings; hence, low demand for copies of our reference. Self-publishing became the only option for reasons I will explain later. For personal reasons, Randy Wiley declined to be a co-author but agreed to be a major contributor and reviewer of anything I would write and publish.

To date, I have self-published four individual volumes, totaling over 1,500 pages documenting the almost 800 mintmarked (San Francisco, Carson City, and New Orleans) LSHD die marriages. I printed less than 250 copies of each volume.

With the decision to proceed, I conducted a self-assessment to determine needs and to accomplish the actual technical production. With many decades of research already completed, I figured I needed assistance in five major areas: access to additional half dollars (for the varieties I did not have in my reference collection), various experts to help me, high-quality photographs, computer tools and skills, and finally, adequate financing. These five items became the bulk of the self-publishing effort which I will explain herein.

I needed help! I did not have all the LSHD die marriages nor did I have all the knowledge. I decided to assemble those individuals who could help me at a “Half Dollar Summit” for each volume. The Summit is week-long, marathon session of studying and documenting LSHD at my home in Gettysburg. I will not go into all the details but my wife

kept us well-fed and happy so we had time for numismatic pursuits. For those that could attend, I managed to borrow their coins or complete collections. Knowing people helps.

High-quality photographs are critical and very important. I realized that with my type of books, success absolutely depends on good photos. The photos depict the die diagnostics critical to the identification of the die varieties. Without good photos, my effort would be worthless; if necessary, my books must be able to stand alone only with the photos. The old adage “One picture is worth a thousand words!” definitely holds true here and I am going to spend some time writing about it here. A must-have book if you are going to do coin photography is Mark Goodman’s *Numismatic Photography*. Mark’s book will answer all your questions in an easy-to-read format; I read it twice and studied all the sections to refine my technique. It was well worth the time and effort for the minimal cost of the book. Although I had many years of experience with film coin photography, modern digital imaging definitely makes this task much easier. In my mind, equipment matters. For about \$1,000, you can get an easy-to-use digital camera setup. Figure 2 depicts my system and I am fortunate to have enough space in my office to leave it permanently configured; I do not have to set it up and tear it down for each use. In my opinion, a system that will serve you well includes the following:

- Digital single-lens reflex (SLR) camera. I use a Canon T1i EOS 500D. Your choice of camera is your personal preference but it should have at least 8 megapixels for good picture quality. A SLR gives you the flexibility to use different lenses and the camera settings to achieve desirable results. Many may argue that cheaper “point and shoot” cameras in the macro mode give the same results as a SLR but I tried that route and I was never very successful. Cost is about \$600. A remote camera shutter-release cable is important so that you do not shake the camera when you release the shutter. Cost is about \$15.
- Good macro lens. I use a Canon-compatible Sigma 105-mm f/2.8 DG macro lens with hood. Using the macro function of a camera with a standard lens does not give as good a result as a dedicated macro lens. It is worth the extra cost (about \$200).
- “Rock solid” copy stand. You must have a copy stand to mount the camera and it must be absolutely steady or else your photos will be

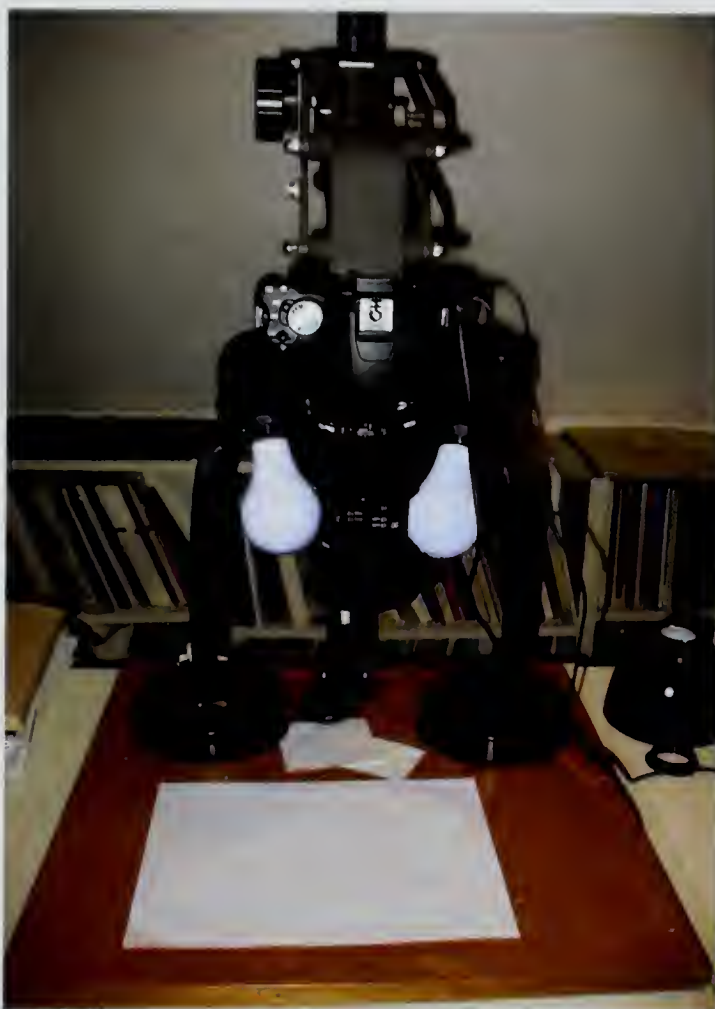


Figure 2. Bill Bugert's camera setup.

blurry. I purchased mine second-hand at a flea market for around \$50. There are many out there. Look for one that has a vertically adjustable camera mount and is very steady; pass on the others. Mount your camera on the adjustable vertical of the copy stand such that the coin nearly fills the view screen of the camera.

- **Lighting.** Mark recommends two GE Reveal 60-watt lights and that is what I use. I purchased two lamps at Walmart and removed the hoods so that I could get the bulbs as close to the camera hood as possible (as Mark recommends). Each lamp was about \$15. Mark recommends you take the photographs in a dark room with no conflicting light sources (other than the two lights); that means at night with the TV off! I know a few collectors who prefer to take photographs in bright sunlight and they get great results, but I have not had very good success using that technique.

- Physical connection from the camera to your computer. Once you take the photographs, you must get them to the computer. A USB cable is the easiest and cheapest method (about \$15). Some SLR cameras allow you to have the computer and camera connected all the time to view the camera's screen on the computer monitor. That makes for easy camera adjustments. My camera has that function but I prefer to take the photos, download them to the computer, and edit them later.
- Other items. To reduce blurring, use a small line level (cost about \$3) to insure the plane of the camera is in the same X-Y plane as the copy stand. The coin's background is also important. Most use a white piece of paper so that it does not conflict with the camera's white-balance setting. Without getting into all the nuances of the camera settings (that could be a long article in itself), I'll just state that I use an aperture priority mode, $f/10$, spot metering, manual focusing (with the mirror locked and focusing using the camera's view screen magnifier), one-click exposure compensation (normally), and custom white balance on a white sheet of paper. All this may sound confusing but once you read Mark's book and familiarize yourself with your camera of choice, it will become clearer.

The other half of the photography system is the computer and software. Again, these are entirely a matter of personal preference and I can only tell you what I have. I use a good Toshiba laptop with the latest Microsoft Office products. For my first book, I started the page formatting with Microsoft Publisher. I like Publisher because it has great flexibility and it is very easy to use. I soon discovered the software overhead made the file size unmanageable, especially when I included all the images I needed (my four volumes have over 6,000 images!). Therefore, I transitioned to Microsoft Word for the primary document. It is not as flexible but it is easy to use; I developed a table template and filled in the words and images for most of the repetitive content. For support data manipulation, I use Microsoft Excel, which makes it easy to analyze data and produce charts and graphs. For image editing, I use an outdated software called Microsoft Picture It!, which I had acquired free with a long-discarded computer. Picture It! is very easy to use, works extremely well, and is what I had and was accustomed to using. The only drawback for Picture It! is that it was designed for use on an 8-bit computer processor. It does work, but very slowly, on today's 64-bit computers. Others use

Adobe products but I did not want to go through the steep learning curve necessary to become proficient with them.

Early on, you will have to decide whether you want to go with a digital book (i.e., online or on DVD) or with a paper book. Both have advantages and disadvantages.

- Digital edition. It is obviously much cheaper because you do not have printing costs and it is much easier to issue updates or new editions. For the cost of a domain name, website space, and/or DVD, you can get your book published quickly or, if you like, in phases. There is utility in having a reference book's information available on a tablet at a coin show or at your desk. In my experience, younger collectors prefer instant information access on a smart phone or tablet so this may be an option for them. However, online information may perish with the author. I know of some great previously online information that is now gone because the author lost interest and let the website expire.
- Paper edition. This is the more expensive option of the two. Printing, especially if you go all-color, and binding a book is not cheap. However, there is something about paging through an open book on your desk and attributing your collection. As Q. David Bowers also puts it, there is permanence in print. If you want your efforts to be around for a long time, consider the extra expense and print your book. If your book has a great topic and estimated high demand, a name-brand numismatic printer and publisher is a logical choice. Otherwise, self-publishing is an option.

For brevity's sake, I am going to assume you will need to find a printer and binder. I decided not to go with an online print source (there are many) because I did not think I could control the quality (for a product with my name on it!). A local mom-and-pop print shop that I used for newsletters was my choice. I already had a great rapport with them and I knew their work was high-quality. Besides, I could continually check the progress and literally pick up the finished books. Assuming your book will have photographs, I would pick a high-quality paper for the pages. I tested over a dozen paper types and finally chose a 100# Anthem gloss; it is heavy and will hold up through repeated use, and the photographs look great on the pages. Choosing black/white or color pages and a binding and cover combination are relatively easy once you consider costs. I will not dwell on this because your printer can give you prices for the

various options. I chose a soft cover with spiral binding for most of my copies, although I spent the extra for a few leather-cover, stitched copies to reward my “helpers.”

I cannot overemphasize an important point. Once you get to that stage, have your printer make proof copies. Review it yourself the first time, print more copies, and have others, including your “helpers” and someone not knowledgeable with your book’s subject, review it again. Lastly, print another copy and review it yourself again! No matter how many times you look at it, you will find something you want to change. Pay particular attention to page formatting, content consistency, photograph quality, spelling, grammar, and incomplete sentences. Nothing is more embarrassing than flipping open the first print-run copy and finding an error.

An ISBN uniquely identifies your book and is different from a copyright. It is easy and relatively inexpensive to obtain an ISBN for your book. Go to www.isbn.org for complete details on how to purchase and manage your ISBN(s).

When determining your book costs, be sure to consider everything. At a minimum, be sure to consider these costs: printing, graphic designer (I used one for the cover design), packaging/ mailing material, postage (in borrowing coins and sending out completed books), promotion (travel and advertising), and mileage to print shop and post office. Forget about including your time—you work for free! I have yet to make any money on my books, but I freely admit that was not a goal. I did it to advance knowledge and interest in this half dollar series.

One last item: it truly helps to have a supportive spouse and/or family. My wife has been very understanding, especially when I would hole up in my office 12+ hours per day every day for the long Pennsylvania winter months.

I hope this short article gives you something to think about and may ease your fear of self-publishing. Everyone knows something or some subject matter that may aid others. Here is your opportunity to spread that knowledge. I am mentoring others with their self-publishing efforts and I would be glad to assist you as well. You may contact me at wb8cpy@earthlink.net. Good luck!

Numismatic Literature as a Research Tool

Jon P. Amato

My book *The Draped Bust Half Dollars of 1796-1797*, reviewed by Steve Tompkins in the April-June 2013 issue of *The Asylum*, would never have seen the light of day had it not been for numismatic auction catalogues, along with fixed-price lists in publications such as *Coin World* and *Numismatic News*. These were invaluable sources to help accomplish my goal of compiling a census of known 1796-1797 half dollars and their grade distribution.

More than 4,000 catalogues and fixed-price lists were examined, mainly from the libraries of the American Numismatic Society and Heritage Auctions and from my personal collection. Auction sales were obtained from listings in John Adams, *United States Numismatic Literature*, Volumes 1 and 2 (1982, 1990); Martin Gengerke, *American Numismatic Auctions* (1990); and Karl Moulton, *United States Numismatic Auction Catalogues, 1990-2000* (2001). My emphasis was on appearances that included plated 1796-1797 halves so that I could conduct what Carl Carlson called "Isolation Analysis" in his article "Tracker: An Introduction to Pedigree Research in the Field of Rare American Coins" in the 1981 ANA Anthology. This resulted in the documentation of 270 distinct 1796-1797 half dollar specimens.

My research resulted in findings that shed new light on 1796-1797 half dollar mintages by date, die-marriage rarity, and grade distribution. First, an equal number of 1796- and 1797-dated half dollars were documented in the census. While these results were based on sample data, they point to the likelihood that the original mintage of each date was more equal than previously thought (Overton/Parsley, for example, suggested that three times as many 1797 coins were minted as 1796 pieces).

Second, while the 1796 16 Stars variety (O-102) has been traditionally considered to be the rarest of the four die marriages (which is reflected in most price guides), the book's findings show the 1797 O-102 variety

to have the lowest survival rate by a wide margin. In other words, it and not the 1796 16 Stars appears to be the rarest of the four Overton varieties.

Third, only 50 (about 18%) of the 270 coins in the census were shown to grade VG or less. This refutes the widely held notion that most survivors are in low grades. Indeed, 160 specimens (more than 59%) grade Fine and VF, and 60 (nearly 23%) are XF to Mint State.

Finally, the Web page (HA.com/JonAmato) that Heritage set up for readers to view new 1796–1797 half dollar discoveries is probably one of the first attempts that a publisher has made to keep a printed publication current. Eight new discoveries have been listed on this page since the book's December 2012 publication, including two from the "Col." E.H.R. Green and Eric P. Newman collections recently sold by Heritage. One of these, a 1796 15 Stars example, NGC MS-62, has a pedigree to the W.W. Thurston collection sold by S.K. Harzfeld in September 1880 (lot 211) for \$300!

In conclusion, I hope the findings published in the book will shed more light on what Walter Breen refers to as "the most mysterious of U.S. coin types, as well as the most elusive." Until now, very little has been written on this important two-year design type, so hopefully the book will benefit those that have owned, presently own, or wish to own one of these classic pieces of Americana. Again, it was only through the access to a plethora of numismatic literature that such a book could have been successfully researched and written.

“You Don’t Say”: Numismatic Quarterly Quiz

Myron Xenos

1. What happened to the Charlotte Mint on April 20, 1861?
2. Brasher’s NOVA EBORACA doubloon bears what date?
3. The first coin presses at the Philadelphia Mint were powered by what source?
4. The Randall hoard, Redfield hoard, Harmony (Economite) hoard, and Wylie hoard were famous hoards. Name what each of them was hoarding.
5. What Chicago beer brewer became a noted coin collector?
6. What event closed down the New Orleans mint from July 1st to November 30, 1839?
7. Name the engraver whose initial appears on the 1864 cent.
8. Due to a shortage of cents in 1974, at which mint were additional cents produced without mintmarks?
9. In 1792, the Act that established the first specs for U.S. coinage prescribed what punishment for embezzlement?
10. The U.S. opened its only overseas mint on July 16, 1920 in which island country?
11. The dekadrachm is made of what metal?
12. If you have a date set of U.S. large cents from 1793 to 1857, which year would you be missing?

If you can think of a question you would like to see in the next quiz, send it to me at mdxenos@oh.rr.com!

Reminiscences of a Numismatic Bookseller 3

George Kolbe

Over the past thirty-plus years, I have attended many numismatic book auctions, a number of them overseas, including London and Düsseldorf in 1981; two Zürich sales in 1982; London in 1985, 1987, and 1988; Zürich in 1989; Frankfurt in 1991; Zürich and Paris in 1993; and so on.

Among more memorable auctions in the 1980s and '90s was the April 1982 Bank Leu sale of the Hans von Aulock library, described anonymously as that of "a Well Known Scholar Lately Deceased." It was a landmark event. Due in no small part to the robust participation of the J. Paul Getty Museum, the auction produced many world-record prices for classic works on ancient Greek coins. Memories of the auction will likely comprise a future article. The Prince Fürstenberg Library sale by Sotheby's, two months later, was no less remarkable, if entirely different in both content and outcome. Limited to 451 lots devoted largely to works on medieval and modern numismatics issued in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, it included many rarities in superb condition, typically bound in delightful Germanic leather bindings contemporary to the period of publication. Held during uncertain economic times with content generally outside the compass of the Getty, it produced mixed, generally modest results. It too may be covered in the future.

The 1993 sale in Paris sale noted above was a particularly memorable event and the present article is devoted to it. Entitled *Bibliothèque Rollin-Feuarent: Numismatique, Archéologie et Beaux-Arts*, the auction was held at the venerable Hôtel Drouot in Paris and conducted under the expertise of Paris coin dealer Alain Weil. The stage may best be set by quoting the initial part of "Rollin et Feuarent: A Final Farewell?," an article I wrote that appeared in the Fall 1993 issue of *The Asylum*:

Shortly after the turn of the nineteenth century, the firm Rollin entered the coin business. Subsequently it became Rollin et Feuarent, and, throughout the second half of the nineteenth and first decade of

the twentieth century, the partnership of Charles Rollin and Félix Feuardent ruled supreme in France and, indeed, perhaps the entire numismatic world. The firm established branches in London in 1868 and in New York in 1876. Though most key European countries had their own major numismatic/antiquarian house, Rollin et Feuardent crossed international boundaries. As the Chapmans were to America, Spink & Son to Great Britain, Rollin et Feuardent was to the world.

They sold privately; they conducted auctions; they were major numismatic publishers. They were a force everywhere. After over a century of existence, they closed their doors around 1930. Of course they are still widely remembered and respected for their numerous important numismatic auction sales and their role as publishers. Many of the numismatic texts appearing under their aegis still remain standard numismatic reference works. Most of their major publications featured superb phototype plates and were written by the most talented French numismatists of the day.

After six decades, the name of the firm was once again heard in the sales rooms of Paris. On Friday November 26, 1993, the *Bibliothèque Rollin-Feuardent: Numismatique, Archéologie et Beaux-Arts* was sold at Drouot-Richelieu. Catalogued by the well-known French coin dealer Alain Weil, 444 lots were offered. Various sources reported that the sale comprised from one third to eighty percent of the original library. Judging from what was *not* there, the former estimate is probably more accurate. But *Voilà!*, what was there: rare and desirable numismatic works on many topics, superb works on antiquities, and on and on. Though arranged in fewer than 500 lots, many thousands of volumes were to be sold.

The catalogue featured, under the heading **VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE**, the following caveat:

The Rollin and Feuardent library has been used by professionals for more than a century where certain of its works are concerned. Since the end of World War II, the books have no longer been consulted and are covered with dust. These factors explain the present state of the books, which show traces of wear and dust. The buyers should therefore know that the lots proposed are only in fair condition. This remark will not be repeated with each description. Given this warning as well as the fact that the books will be on public view before the sale, it will not be possible to take into consideration any complaint concerning the condition of the lots. Nevertheless, when this condition has seemed either very inferior

or very superior to the general state of these professional books, this has been noted in the description.

Certainly, many of the books were dusty and dirty. One's hands needed continual washing and, at the end of the day, a handkerchief would provide a growing medium for most any plant. In truth, however, the wear was mostly minor, often minimal, and the bindings could easily be cleaned. Generally, the volumes were internally in superb state. The bindings were mostly of a quality one comes to expect from the talented French *relieurs* of the day: polished morocco, gilt-decorated calf, superb marbled endsheets, gilt page edges, et al.

Monsieur Weil spent six months of weekends cataloguing the library. Generally, his estimates were nominal and many lots were comprised of as many as fifty or one hundred volumes. What gems were to be found in these large lots! Given the disclaimer concerning condition, the low estimates and the number of large lots with brief descriptions, it was incumbent for interested parties to attend this sale. And attend they did.

The sale was scheduled to start at 11:00 AM, and the doors of Drouot opened at 11:00 AM. By 10:45 a small crowd had gathered. At 11:00 several hundred people were waiting outside. Fortunately a number of sales were to be held that day and escalators carried sale attendees to upper or lower levels of the cavernous Drouot building. The book auction was held in sale room 11 on a lower level. There were three rows of tables and chairs facing the rostrum followed by several rows of chairs, and at the rear of the room, a large open area. When the sale began, it was Standing Room Only, and perhaps a hundred or more people were in the room.

With centuries of experience, Drouot personnel know how to run an auction. At the head table was an impeccably attired auctioneer with a full complement of clerks, flanked by Alain Weil and a helper. Spotters were stationed at the front of the room, and as each lot was being sold, it was also shown by the Drouot staff. The books thus could be, and were examined, during the course of the sale. The pace was a somewhat leisurely 80–100 lots per hour. For non-Francophiles, the translating of French numbers to English, francs to dollars, and, above all, endeavoring to be correct, took every spare second of time. When the initial lot was purchased, identification and method of payment was immediately requested.

Please note that the preceding text was copied from an original printout retained by the author, rectifying a number of typographical inaccuracies that appeared in the published article. The balance of *The Asylum* text was devoted to a list of sale highlights and, while there may be a bit of overlap here, the reminder of the present article will endeavor to record other aspects of an unforgettable trip to Paris.

Digressing briefly, I had been to Paris twice before: both were day visits from London to visit Bernard Poindessault and Josiane Vedrines and view their impressive stock of rare and desirable numismatic books, virtually all in an excellent state of preservation and nicely bound. Some of Bernard's nicest books were sold by Fritz Rudolf Künker in a 2010 auction in Düsseldorf, where I managed to capture several of Bernard's treasures perhaps missed on my earlier visits. I bought a considerable number of books on the first day trip to Paris, including my first set of Engel and Serrure's classic bibliography of French numismatics, a work I long held in the highest esteem. Pickings were slim on the second trip not long thereafter, though I still regret not ponying up the hefty price necessary to acquire a set of Loubat's 1878 *The Medallic History of the United States*, inscribed by the author to Ulysses S. Grant, shortly after completion of his two terms as President of the United States.

Uncertain where to stay in Paris while attending the sale, Richard Margolis happened to mention, in a telephone conversation about the auction, a place quite near to Drouot, namely the Hotel Vivienne. Though modernized since, its main positive attributes at the time were proximity to Hôtel Drouot and its location on rue Vivienne where, nearby, many of the premier numismatic establishments of Paris were located at the time. Several of the shops and offices stocked small selections of secondhand numismatic publications, some of which found their way to California in 1993 and on later visits. The hotel itself, if a bit dated at the time, was pleasant enough with more than a modicum of faded charm.

To say that books in France are very well cared for by their custodians is a truism. I can remember only one sale in Paris, several years thereafter, where this was not so and I purchased many books at bargain prices. While still desirable in the eyes of most, their generally minor imperfections resulted in lessened competition from local collectors and dealers. It is also fair to say that the French are often not happy to see treasured volumes leave their country. Major book auctions are not always as well publicized internationally as they might be, nor is outside participation

universally solicited. In my experience, arranging for the delivery of purchases with the officials at Drouot has always been an onerous process, compounded by excessive wallet lightening. Screed over.

Despite the disclaimer about the condition of the books in the Rollin and Feuardent library, as previously noted they were far less worn than dusty and most of the dust was easily removable. Douglas Saville also attended the sale and, during lot viewing and after, we both bemoaned the fact that we had not allowed an additional day or two for lot viewing. I had arrived in Paris two days before the sale, but too late on the first day to examine the books. A scant one hour thirty minutes of viewing time was allotted on the following morning and, after a two-and-a-half hour *bon appétit* break, another 90 minutes was granted during an unseasonably warm afternoon. Frantically, I viewed the sale highlights, then dug through as many of the bulk lots as was possible, at first making notes on content and value, soon doing little more than frantically adding up numbers in my head to formulate bids. As unprepared as we both felt, it became apparent at the sale the following day that few others had dirtied their hands and soiled their clothes. Perspiration was about to pay dividends.

Rather than reprise the highlights noted in *The Asylum* article, a recounting of a few of the items not included there follows, along with added perspective on other aspects of the sale. The low range of estimates totaled some 600,000 francs and the hammer prices came to 1,626,300 francs, or nearly \$275,000 at the exchange rate current at the time. That noted, attitude and aptitude resulted in a good deal of money being left on the table. An early lot, 8, was described as “DOCUMENTS DE TRAVAIL. Grand lot de photographies, catalogues, manuscrits de collections et documents divers.” Estimated at 1000 to 1500 francs, I purchased it for 5800 francs but was prepared to bid “15000+ +.” Subsequently, one manuscript volume on medals present in the lot brought a multiple of the purchase price.

Other amazing opportunities abounded. Lot 44 was described as: “BORRELL, M.J. Manuscrit en anglais d'un traité des monnaies grecques. Onze vol. in-8 luxueusement reliés plein morocco rouge, tranches marbrées.” (Borrell, M.J. Manuscript in English of a treatise on Greek coins. Eleven vols. 8vo, luxuriously bound in full red morocco, marbled edges.) Estimated at 10000 to 15000 francs, it was purchased for 36000 francs on behalf of a client who initially had suggested a bid of

15000 francs if it was essentially an “inventory,” or 30000 francs if it was “informative.” After viewing it I noted: “Ancient authors – [a review of] Numismatic authors, Goltsius up to Madden, [with] historical commentary, detailed listings [including] false coins, etc. Detailed indices. Superbly bound, small handwriting, heavily written [on] one side [of each leaf] throughout, well over 2000 pages of [hand]written manuscript.” I thereupon suggested a limit of at least \$10,000, i.e., 60,000 francs.

Several anxious weeks followed as the French government was deciding whether to exercise their legal option to acquire the Borrell manuscript at the sale price for the national library or to relinquish that right. Their decision not to purchase it was good news, enhanced by the fact that Barclay V. Head, in his celebrated *Historia Numorum*, prominently notes its utility in the preparation of his magnum opus on ancient Greek coins: “MM. Rollin and Feuervant have likewise rendered me an invaluable service by most liberally placing at my disposal the volumes of the late Mr. M. Borrell’s carefully compiled MS. Catalogue of Greek coins.” Had that nugget appeared in the catalogue description, the price would doubtless have been much higher, and the likelihood of the government deciding not to acquire it much lower. A prominent numismatist of the day, Maximilian Borrell has another claim to fame in the eyes of American numismatists. It was he who, nearly four decades earlier than Dr. George Heath, had issued a monthly publication entitled *The Numismatist*.

I am doubtless being far too harsh on the cataloguer of the sale. M. Weil was a fine gentleman and was quite helpful and friendly over the years. No one said that cataloguing numismatic libraries is not hard work governed by unyielding deadlines, and it must be observed that the sale was well attended by French dealers and collectors and, further, that the many classic and standard works offered in the sale brought prices commensurate with their value. Still... Douglas Saville and I would have given a great deal to have been allotted more time to have gotten down and dirty two decades ago in *la Ville Lumière*.

Reminiscence

George Fuld

This reminiscence was originally published as part of the introductory material to Q. David Bowers' A Guide Book of Civil War Tokens: History – Values — Rarities (Atlanta: Whitman Publishing, 2013). It is reprinted here in memory of George Fuld by courtesy of Dennis Tucker and Q. David Bowers.

As of 1943, like many youngsters I started to collect Lincoln cents. By 1946 I was deeply involved in collecting all United States coinage, and had completed my Lincoln cent set as well as a set of Indian Head cents and was pursuing earlier years of this denomination. In 1947 I talked my father, Melvin Fuld, into taking me to the American Numismatic Association convention held that year in Buffalo. For a precocious kid of 15, this was such an eye-opening experience. I met two collectors who made a complete change in my collecting interest. They were William Guild of West Newton, Massachusetts (later of Florida), and Bill Jacka of Bedford, Ohio. They both told me of a new collecting interest—Civil War tokens. They suggested that this was a wide-open field with hundreds of different tokens available at 10¢ to 25¢ each.

At the show I met David Bullowa, who sold me dozens of different Civil War tokens at 25¢ each. At that time, my father had no interest in coin collecting. Over the next year or so he joined me in enjoying these tokens. In 1949, Bullowa acquired the 4,000-plus collection of Civil War tokens formed by Joseph Barnet and advertised in *The Numismatist*. He wanted \$2,500 for the collection, a “huge” sum for me at the time. I proposed that Bullowa buy my collection of U.S. cents complete from 1794 to date (except the 1856 Flying Eagle) as partial payment in the amount of \$900. My father agreed to make up the difference in cash. We packed up our collection and drove from Baltimore to Philadelphia to make the trade.

At that time the only reference available was the Hettrich and Gutttag book published in 1924; Barnet had published an updated commentary

on H&G varieties in *The Numismatist* and *The Numismatic Review* in 1943 and 1944. I aggressively continued to buy Civil War tokens, including small collections, and offered duplicates for sale. In 1951 my father and I bought the D.C. Wismer collection of Civil War tokens, consisting of 11,000 pieces, from the New Netherlands Coin Company, at 6¢ each. We sold more than 5,000 of these, packed in a wooden crate, to Tatham Stamp & Coin Co. in Springfield, Massachusetts. These were all duplicates, mainly the “Dix” patriotic tokens. The other major collection we acquired was Henry Gutttag’s collection of about 5,000 pieces in 1958. It had first passed to Max Schwartz of New York City, who retained a hundred or so pieces, then to John Zug of Bowie, Maryland, who advertised it, but no buyer came forth. From there it went to New Netherlands, then to us. We traded with the few serious Civil War token collectors such as William Fayerweather, Clif Temple, Jim Curto, Ray Haggenjos, Charles Foster, Lionel Rudduck, Wayne Rich, Martin Jacobowitz, and Otto Kersteiner.

Starting about 1951 my father and I created articles on special series of Civil War tokens. About the same time I proposed a comprehensive compilation. I chose to do the patriotic series first, as there are only about 550 different patriotic token dies. Each die combination was assigned a number, as had been done by Hetrich and Gutttag. I assigned rarity ratings of 1 to 10, which are still used today. The rarity of each combination was determined by checking inventories of all collections I knew of plus my experience of the many duplicates that I had seen. The photographs of each die were taken at two times actual size by Kenneth Bressett, after which I pasted and numbered them on 22 plates. This work was published serially in 1959 in *The Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine*, edited by Lee Hewitt, and in 1960 as one of the “little black books” that Hewitt printed for Whitman Publishing Company, then located in Racine. Two more editions were sold by Whitman, with a total run of more than 15,000 copies at \$1 each.

Concurrently with the patriotic work, I was busy with a book covering the 8,500 or so store card varieties. In 1962 Whitman published *A Guide to Civil War Store Card Tokens* as another of its “little black books.” State by state, each city in which merchants issued Civil War tokens was assigned a number from 1 to 1000, following the style of *Atwood’s Catalogue of United States and Canadian Transportation Tokens* published by the American Vecturist Association. The issues of the 900 or so store card advertisers were listed by merchant followed by a

number representing the die varieties known of each advertiser. There were only occasional illustrations.

Starting about 1962 my father and I began working on a detailed catalog of store card varieties with photographs of the obverse die or dies used by each advertiser. As many dies were used repeatedly for token reverses, a new list of stock reverse dies with identification numbers starting with 1000 was prepared. One must remember that in 1962 there were no computers or word processors and of course no Internet. Starting about 1970, Doug Watson (who worked for Krause Publications) photographed all tokens at actual size and made paste-ups by hand of the descriptive text and photos of each token. The preparation of this massive text took about two years of time by Watson and me. The book was in large format (8½ × 11 inches), totaling 350 pages. I assigned copyright to the Civil War Token Society and it was printed by Krause in 1972. As I recall 1,000 copies were printed and sold out promptly. A slightly revised second edition was printed in a reduced format of 6 × 9 inches by Al Hoch of Quarterman Publications.

Along the way, in 1967, there was enough collector interest for the formation of the Civil War Token Society with my father, Melvin Fuld, as its first president. From a small group of about 100 the society grew to more than 1,000 members. Its journal was and is state of the art in publishing research, news, and other information.

By about 1970 my collection had grown to include about 6,500 different tokens. As new acquisitions were few and far between, I decided to sell it, mostly in groups by states. Now, more than 40 years later, with updates on the patriotic and store card books and with interest increased by the Internet and other means, we have information that I never dreamed of in the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s. It has been a pleasure to have been a part of this growth.

When we started to publish articles on Civil War tokens in 1950, four important advances we enjoy today were not available: computers, word processors, digital photography, and the genius of Dave Bowers. As you read and enjoy his *Guide Book of Civil War Tokens* you cannot help but wonder how Bowers has assembled so much useful information not in print in any other single source elsewhere.

Although much has been published on Civil War tokens, it has taken the gifted research and writing of Dave Bowers to produce a book that will appeal to the novice collector and at the same time will pro-

vide much useful and often new information to the most experienced collector.

The author's first several chapters are very thorough, defining Civil War tokens and their setting in American history, replete with fascinating information on tokens prior to the conflict, then details of how they first appeared, became a necessity with the public, and then spawned a new generation of eager collectors. It may come as a surprise to learn that in 1863, the most prolific year of token issues, many numismatists formed extensive cabinets of pieces found in circulation while at the same time commissioning special strikings from the token-issuing diesinkers and shops. By the time the first serious catalog of such tokens was presented by Pliny E. Chase to the American Philosophical Society that September, there were a half dozen or so dealers in New York City engaging in a lively trade to supply Civil War tokens to collectors. In reading this book I had an "I am there" experience—in the midst of all of the excitement.

Dave Bowers goes on to give good suggestions as to how to collect Civil War patriotic tokens and store cards, discussing grading, elements that determine value, and aspects of rarity. A Rarity-9 token (two to four known) can be worth only a few hundred dollars in many instances, but if issued in a "rare town" can run into the thousands.

He gives excellent information on how dies were made and tokens struck, discussing different aspects and peculiarities. A "primitive" die, amateurishly made, can be more interesting and valuable to a collector than an expertly cut die with perfect details and letter alignments. Such rustic tokens are the numismatic equivalent of folk art.

This *Guide Book* will give a beginning collector enough information to develop into an expert. No book on Civil War tokens has ever been as thorough.

Patriotic tokens are the focus of chapter 6, with nearly every known die illustrated and described, together with information as to the market value of collectible varieties. Chapter 7 delineates all known issuers of Civil War store cards and gives information about them, together with illustrations of nearly all known reverse dies. The appendices are each a rich source for additional information.

Dave's narrative is not only informative, but it brings to life the lore, romance, and appeal of this fascinating branch of American numismatics. I expect that it will be a standard reference for years to come.

A Tribute to Dr. George J. Fuld, 1932–2013

Tony J. Lopez

When Barry Tayman called me on the afternoon of October 19, 2013 with the sad news of George Fuld's passing, I was sitting at my desk, working on an *MCA Advisory* article on the Benjamin Franklin American Beaver medal. While hearing of the loss of this numismatic giant, laid out before me was part of his legacy: *Medallic Portraits of Washington* and the December 1956 *Numismatist*, the Benjamin Franklin issue,



Pioneering historical medal author, researcher, and collector Dr. George J. Fuld passed away on October 19, 2013. (Courtesy Q. David Bowers)

Reprinted from the *MCA Advisory* 16 no. 5 (October–November 2013), pp. 4–5.

opened to the article “Medallic Memorials to Franklin”. Medal collecting had lost one of its greats.

Barry and George had been close friends for over 40 years, and in 2008, I was fortunate enough to gather with George, Barry, and David Menchell for a meeting with Maryland Historical Society Curator Jeannine Disviscour to authenticate their amazing holdings of historical medals. This included the original silver Comitia Americana medal awarded to Revolutionary War hero Colonel John Eager Howard for the Battle of Cowpens, an Annapolis Tuesday Club medal, and the Society’s complete set of Maryland medals (Betts 34–36). During our visit, George saw a need there, and later became a volunteer at the MdHS, assisting them with identifying and cataloging their numismatic holdings.

George was generous with his knowledge and helped me with various projects over the years on historic and Indian Peace medals; he was a veritable encyclopedia. Despite the width and breadth of his expertise, George was open to new ideas and discoveries and was never dogmatic

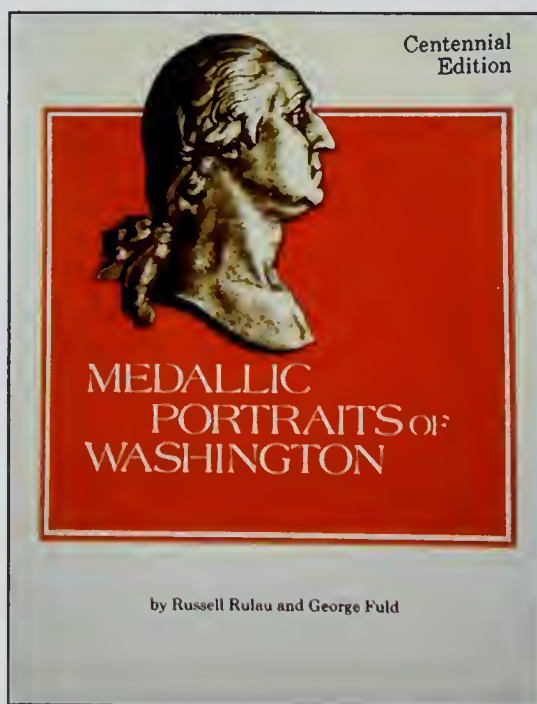


George Fuld and a group of fellow MCA members visited the Maryland Historical Society to authenticate their important collection of Maryland related historical medals. Standing left to right Jeannine Disviscour (MdHS Curator), David Menchell, Barry Tayman, George Fuld, Tony Lopez, and the late Patricia A. Roberts (EPA Associate General Counsel and MdHS volunteer). Behind them is a painting of Maryland Colonel John Eager Howard by Charles Willson Peale.

about his knowledge or the findings of prior research. I was honored and privileged to assist George with his research on the Maryland medals for his article “Seventeenth Century Maryland Medals” published in the Spring 2011 *Maryland Numismatist*.

George was well known as a pioneer on Civil War tokens and Early American coinage, but he was also a staunch contributor to *The MCA Advisory*, *The TAMS Journal*, and to medal research in general. He was tireless and prolific in publishing his research, which included the aforementioned modern edition of W.S. Baker’s iconic 1885 *Medallic Portraits of Washington* (co-authored with the late Russell Rulau) and *Medallic Memorials to Franklin* (co-authored with his father, Melvin Fuld).

As evidence of his ongoing dedication to his subject matter, George published work on the Washington Before Boston medal extending over more than four decades, including “Washington Before Boston Medal” (*TAMS Journal*, vol. 3, 1963), which was reprinted and updated in the Stack’s catalogue of the John J. Ford Collection Part II (May 2004), and wrote another article in the September 2004 *Numismatist*, “Washington Before Boston: A New Look at an Historic Medal”. George’s expertise in medals Included Washington, Franklin, Colonial, and Indian Peace



In 1985 George Fuld and the late Russell Rulau updated and co-authored the Centennial Edition of W.S. Baker’s 1885 *Medallic Portraits of Washington*.

medals. At the 1987 Coinage of the Americas Conference, George presented and wrote (with co-author Barry Tayman) “The Montreal and Happy While United Medals”. More recently, George contributed the article “Washington Oval Peace Medals” with co-author Mark Spiegel to the March–April 2011 *MCA Advisory*, and was a contributing author of the chapter “Washington Oval Peace Medals” in the 2011 Gilcrease Museum work on Indian Peace medals: *Peace Medals: Negotiating Power in Early America*.

In 2004 George received the MCA’s highest award for long-term contribution to medallic research, the Carl Carlson Award. His other awards are too numerous to list, but they include top awards from many organizations, including the American Numismatic Association Lifetime Achievement Award (2002) and Civil War Token Society Hall of Fame (2002); as President of TAMS from 1960 to 1962, George had a medal struck in his honor.

After we left the Maryland Historic Society, George, Barry, and I went to lunch nearby. While we ate, George went over his research on the Washington pattern coins of Peter Getz with Barry and me. While listening to him, I have to admit that the kid inside me was secretly thrilled. There I was, hanging out with one of my numismatic heroes—



George Fuld received the MCA’s Carl Carlson Award in 2004, and was also President of the Token and Medal Society from 1960–1962. This medal was struck in his honor by TAMS. (Courtesy William Hyder, TAMS)

none other than George Fuld who wrote all of those books on medals and tokens that I used all the time. But here in person George was just a regular guy, down to earth and easy to be around. Dr. George Fuld was bigger than life, not only a numismatic giant, but a scholar, receiving his PhD in Chemical Engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1957. His tireless passion and dedication to advance the published knowledge of coins, medals, and tokens left behind a timeless legacy of important reference work. But what I will always remember most about George was his generosity, unselfish accessibility, kind demeanor and, more than anything, his graciousness.

Answers to the Numismatic Quarterly Quiz (see p. 169): 1) It was seized by the State of North Carolina, which was about to secede. 2) 1787. 3) Humans. 4) Large cents, silver dollars, Bust halves (mostly), antiquarian numismatic literature. 5) Virgil Brand. 6) Outbreak of yellow fever. 7) James B. Longacre. 8) West Point. 9) Death. 10) Philippine Islands. 11) Silver. 12) 1815; if you have one, thank a counterfeiter.

Off the Shelf

David F. Fanning

When we think about the foundational works on United States coins, we tend to think about books and monographs. After all, any really thorough treatment of a subject is going to require a degree of space rarely afforded by a mere journal article or newspaper column. In looking at the history of numismatic study in the United States, though, we would be remiss to ignore four truly foundational works that took the form of articles in journals published by various historical societies. These articles were written by James Mease and J. Francis Fisher, two men whose names deserve to be better remembered.

James Mease, MD (1771–1846), was a polymath who published on a number of different subjects, including medicine, geology, and history. He was well known as the editor of the *Domestic Encyclopedia* (1803–04) and the *Archives of Useful Knowledge* (1811–12). His *Picture of Philadelphia* (1811) is an important work of local history and contains the first useful description of the U.S. Mint operations. In addition, he is considered to be the first writer to publish on the subject of U.S. numismatics.

In a groundbreaking series of three articles, Mease examined U.S. medals and coins from the perspective of the numismatist, writing as a student of numismatics for other devotees of the subject. While a number of American publications of numismatic interest predate Mease's 1821 article "Description of Some of the Medals Struck in Relation to Important Events in North America," these earlier publications were written for merchants, bankers, lawyers, politicians, and other people who dealt with monetary issues on a daily basis. Works had not been written in this country from the point of view of one who studies coins and medals.

Mease's 1821 article on medals is the first work published in the United States on a numismatic subject and is of the utmost importance to the history of U.S. numismatics. Topics covered include the *Libertas*

DESCRIPTION
OF SOME OF
THE MEDALS,

*Struck in relation to Important Events in North America,
before and since the Declaration of Independence by
the United States. By JAMES MEASE, M. D. Hono-
rary Member of the New-York Historical Society.
Read 9th June, 1818.*



1. OCCASION.—Settlement of Pennsylvania. Silver,
Face—A head of William Penn.

Legend—William Penn—Born 1644, died 1718.

Reverse. Device—Penn standing: his left hand on his walking cane, and shaking hands with an Indian Chief, who is holding a bow in his left hand.

Legend—By Deeds of Peace.

Exergue—Pennsylvania, settled 1681.*

2. OCCASION.—In honour of the late General John Armstrong, of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, for destroying the Kitanning Indian towns. Silver.

Device—An officer followed by two soldiers: the officer pointing to a soldier shooting from behind a tree, and an Indian prostrate before him. In the back ground Indian houses are seen in flames.

Legend—Kitanning destroyed by Colonel Armstrong, September 8, 1756.

Reverse. Device—The arms of the corporation of Philadelphia. These consisted of four devices: on the right hand, a ship under full sail: on the left, a pair of scales equally balanced: on the right, above the ship, a wheat-sheaf: on the left, two hands locked.

Legend—The gift of the Corporation of the City of Philadelphia.†

* I am not informed by whose authority this medal was struck. It is preserved in the Cabinet of the Library Company of Philadelphia.

† See Note A.—Silver medals were presented to each of the commissioned officers.

Figure 1. Dr. James Mease's 1821 "Description of Some of the Medals Struck in Relation to Important Events in North America," the first truly numismatic article published in the United States.

[The first portion of the following paper (pp. 297 — 308,) was originally published in the "Collections of the New-York Historical Society," (Vol. III. pp. 387 — 404.) By the courtesy of that Society, the Publishing Committee are enabled to insert it here, with the author's emendations, as giving completeness to Dr. Mease's subsequent communication to the Massachusetts Historical Society.]

DESCRIPTION

OF SOME OF

THE MEDALS,

Struck in relation to Important Events in North America, before and since the Declaration of Independence by the United States. By JAMES MEASE, M. D.

1. OCCASION. — Settlement of Pennsylvania. Silver.

Face. — A head of William Penn.

Legend. — WILLIAM PENN — BORN 1644, DIED 1718.

Reverse. *Device.* — Penn standing; his left hand on his walking cane, and shaking hands with an Indian Chief, who is holding a bow in his left hand.

Legend. — BY DEEDS OF PEACE.

Exergue. — PENNSYLVANIA, SETTLED 1681.*

Figure 2. Mease's expanded 1834 revision of his 1821 article.

Americana medal, a few Betts medals, the Comitia Americana series, and some War of 1812 medals.

In 1834, Mease published a revision of his original article, this time in the *Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society*. This version of his work, published under the title "Description of Some of the Medals, Struck in Relation to Important Events in North America, before and since the Declaration of Independence by the United States," is expanded from 18 to 24 pages and adds material to Mease's descriptions of the medals from the War of 1812.

In 1838, Mease went on to write what is considered to be the first numismatic article concerning American coins, a two-page work appearing in the *Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society*. Brief as it may be, this work is the foundation upon which scholarship on American coins has been constructed. Indeed, it is of greater value than merely

OLD AMERICAN COINS.

[The following account of some American coins, issued before the establishment of the present government, by some of the States, was furnished by Doctor JAMES MEASE, of Philadelphia].

No. 1. This coin is larger than a half cent. On one side it has thirteen ribs or bars which run parallel to, and are equi-distant from each other. On the other side are the letters U. S. A. the S. being of larger size, running across the other two letters. It has no date nor any other inscription.

No. 2. On one side a head surrounded by "Georgius. Dei. Gratia. Rex." On the other side is a rose and the following inscription, "Rosa. Americana. Utile. Dulci. 1722.

No. 3. On one side a chain of *thirteen* circular links running around the face of the coin. In the centre a circle, having upon it the words "We are one," and around these words, "United States." On the other side there is a sun at meridian height, looking down upon a dial, beneath which appear these words, "Mind your business." The word "*Fugio*," and the date 1787 also appear on the same side of the coin.

No. 4. On one side the American Eagle, having on its breast a shield, with the word CENT upon it. Around the face of the Coin is "MASSACHUSETTS 1788." On the other side is an Indian at full length with his bow and arrow, and the word COMMONWEALTH.

No. 5. On one side a sheaf of wheat, and the words "PEACE AND PLENTY;" on the other, a full length portrait of Fame blowing her trumpet, and these words "FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF THE PUBLIC." There is a date upon it, but the third figure is so badly done, as to leave a doubt whether it is 1784, or some earlier period.

Figure 3. Mease's 1838 publication on early American coins.

as a curiosity or historical artifact: Eric Newman has discussed how Mease's comments on the Bar Cent and the circulating value of Connecticut coppers have important implications for modern scholarship on these pieces.¹

Mease was not the only person writing on numismatic subjects in the U.S. at this time. Joshua Francis Fisher (1808–73) published an important article in 1837, also in the *Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society*. His "Description of American Medals" is far from being a rehashing of Mease's earlier work: in fact, they list only one medal in

¹ Eric P. Newman, "The Earliest American Publications on Numismatics: A Rediscovery," *The Asylum* 10 no. 3 (Summer 1992), pp. 3–9.

common: the “Washington before Boston” medal of the Comitia Americana series. Fisher described fourteen Washington medals, five Franklin medals, one each depicting Jefferson and Benjamin Rush, three medals of the Revolution, and fourteen earlier colonial medals including the very rare Lord and Lady Baltimore medal. Fisher’s article is more concerned with colonial-era medals than Mease’s, which mostly describes the Comitia Americana series and related medals.

These foundational articles were recognized as important in their day and for a generation or so after. In his groundbreaking lecture on the topic of U.S. numismatic literature, William S. F. Mayers noted that “the first actual attempts at systematic classification and record of the coins struck in or for the American colonies and United States, appear in the shape of papers to be found in the collections of State Historical Societies.”² Mease’s articles are specifically mentioned by Mayers, showing that these works, long forgotten until recent years, were still in the memory of some in the late 1850s.

Fisher’s article is listed in Attinelli’s masterful 1876 *Numisgraphics*.³ Though the 1821 version of Mease’s article is also included in Attinelli,⁴ it is listed under “Historical Society of New York. Collections” with no mention of its contents or importance (and neither the 1834 revision nor Mease’s 1838 article were mentioned by Attinelli at all). The 1821 publication was reintroduced to modern scholars by Eric Newman in the Summer 1992 issue of *The Asylum*,⁵ and has also been discussed by Joel Orosz in later issues of the same publication.⁶ The Newman article was also published in the August 1992 issue of *The Numismatist*.⁷

All four of these works are rare, with only a handful of copies known in numismatic hands. Their relative unavailability has perhaps contributed to their obscurity, but this obscurity is undeserved and one hopes that it is fading as they become better recognized.

² William S. F. Mayers, “The Literature of American Numismatics,” *Norton’s Literary Letter* no. 3 (1859), p. 6.

³ Emmanuel J. Attinelli, *Numisgraphics, or a List of Catalogues, in Which Occur Coins or Medals, Which Have Been Sold by Auction in the United States, Also, a List of Catalogues or Price Lists of Coins, Issued by Dealers, Also, a List of Various Publications of More or Less Interest to Numismatologists, Which Have Been Published in the United States* (New York: printed for the author, 1876), p. 111.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 109.

⁵ Newman, “Earliest American Publications.”

⁶ Joel J. Orosz, “Dr. James Mease: A Forgotten Pioneer of Numismatic Literature,” *The Asylum* 19 no. 4 (Fall 2001), pp. 128–134.

⁷ Eric P. Newman, “Earliest American Numismatic Articles,” *The Numismatist* 105 no. 8 (August 1992), pp. 1086–89, 1157–61.

DESCRIPTION OF AMERICAN MEDALS.

BY J. S. FISHER, ESQ. OF PHILADELPHIA.

MEDALS OF GENERAL WASHINGTON.

1. MEDAL, apparently struck in France early in the Revolution. Diameter $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch.

Obverse. Head, after the Roman model, with cropped hair, having no likeness to Washington.

Legend. G. WASHINGTON, E^R., GENERAL OF THE CONTINENTAL ARMY IN AMERICA.

Reverse. Cannon, mortars, drum, trumpets, standards, &c. In the rear the beams of the rising Sun.

Legend. WASHIN : REUNIT, PAR UN RARE ASSEMBLAGE, LES TALENS DU GUERRIER, LES VERTUS DU SAGE.

2. Large Medal, struck by order of Congress, commemorative of the Evacuation of Boston. Diameter $2\frac{7}{10}$ inches. Described in 3 Mass. Hist. Coll. Vol. IV. page 300.

3. A Medal apparently struck in England, in 1794. Diameter $1\frac{9}{10}$ inch.

Obverse. Head and bust of Washington in regimentals—a likeness, but a caricature,—hair dressed in the style of Frederick the Great.

Legend. GEORGE WASHINGTON, BORN VIRGINIA,—and below, Feb. 11, 1732.

Engraver's name, under the bust, BROOKS. SC.

Reverse. Inscription, in parallel lines, GENERAL OF THE AMERICAN ARMIES 1775. RESIGNED 1783. PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES 1789.

4. Small Medal. Diameter $1\frac{1}{5}$ inch.

Obverse. Head and bust in regimentals ; a likeness, but not a very good one.

Legend. Same as in the last.

Reverse. Inscription same as in the last, and similarly arranged.

5. Small Medal. Diameter $1\frac{3}{10}$ inch.

Obverse. Head and bust in citizen's dress. On the bust Engraver's name, Lyon.

Legend. GEORGE WASHINGTON. Below, 1796.

Reverse. In the centre a scroll, on which the words REPUB :

Figure 4. J. Francis Fisher's 1837 work on early American medals.

Rejoinder to Review of *The Draped Bust Half Dollars of 1796–1797: Numismatic Background and Census*

Jon P. Amato

Whenever a researcher publishes her/his findings they are open to review, and yes, even criticism! That's as it should be, because that is how knowledge, numismatic or otherwise, is advanced. It is in this spirit that I wish to respond to Steve Tompkins' review of my book, *The Draped Bust Half Dollars of 1796–1797: Numismatic Background and Census*, published in the April–June 2013 issue of *The Asylum*.

First, while a hard-bound edition was discussed with the Heritage Marketing Department, it would have been prohibitively expensive. As Mr. Tompkins correctly indicates, this is a highly esoteric subject. Consequently, the resultant small production run did not justify a hard-bound edition. This aside, present-day Heritage publications (catalogues and soft-cover books) are very well bound. Most can be laid flat when opened without breaking the spine, as long as one does not exert undue pressure on it. I use these references on a daily basis and have never had a problem.

Tompkins' second points are well taken. As regard the provenances, each ownership probably should have been listed on one line for more clarity. With regard to the coin images in the census, it would have been preferable to have increased them at least three times the size of an early half dollar instead of two times. This was considered and experimented with by the Heritage Photography Department. It was determined, however, that enlarging the photos would, in about half the cases, severely reduce image quality. This was true not only for images reproduced from older catalogues, which often resulted in a confusing array of black and white dots, but also for many taken from modern catalogues where photographic quality was substandard. Consequently, scratches, rim bumps, graffiti, etc. are vague on many of the book's photos; that is why I elaborated on the type and location of surface defects in the

“Identification Markers” section for each coin—they support what may only be hinted at in some of the photographs.

With regard to the reviewer’s third point criticizing “the breaking of the 1797 O-101 and O-101a into two separate sections rather than one,” I could not disagree more. Virtually all modern-day catalogues list the 1797 O-101 and O-101a separately. True, Overton does differentiate the 1796 16 Stars into O-102 and 102a, but these differences are apparently not considered by most numismatists to be as significant as those between the 1797 O-101 and O-101a. In the more than 1,500 appearances of Draped Bust Small Eagle halves I examined in auction catalogues and fixed-price lists, only three specifically listed a 1796 16 Stars half as O-102a, and these were actually O-102. Furthermore, I believe that breaking the 1797 O-101 and O-101a into two sections will benefit early half dollar collectors by helping them to readily determine rarity by grade for each, thus enabling them to make more informed decisions in bidding at auction or negotiating a purchase price with a dealer or another collector.

The reviewer takes me to task for not explaining “the use of a fractional denomination on the reverse dies used to produce the four known die marriages of these two years. Only one sentence is devoted to this fact.” Frankly, such an explanation was not within the scope of my research, and even if it was, my search of mint records in the National Archives’ Record Group 104 revealed no information on this question. In any event, Mr. Tompkins indicates that he will enlighten us on this subject in a future publication.

While I appreciate the thoroughness of Tompkins’ review, I do find his lack of “balance” in the evaluation disconcerting. Just on a numerical basis, he devotes approximately 90 words to what he calls “the good” parts of the book, but more than 800 words to “the not so good” portion. The number of “good” or “bad” points aside, more attention might have been devoted to some of the findings from what he calls the “meat and potatoes of the book.”

In conclusion, I hope my comments on Mr. Tompkins’ review will help readers view the 1796–1797 half dollar book in a broader context. They can then form their own opinion on the book’s merits and its benefits to the numismatic community, as well as its shortcomings.

Book Reviews

Q. David Bowers, *A Guidebook of Civil War Tokens*. Atlanta: Whitman Publishing, 2013.

Master story-tellers have been revered through all of human history. As I look at the bookshelves housing my numismatic collection, I can't help but think that if Dave Bowers had been born prior to the advent of the written word (in jest, some may argue just that), he would no doubt have been the majority repository of the oral history of his people. His gift for the "back story" adds a unique flavor to all his works. The reviewed book here, another in the seemingly endless Whitman Official Red Book series, takes up the topic of Civil War Tokens (CWTs). The book is timely as we are in the sesquicentennial of that seminal event that propelled the United States out of a largely agrarian society and into the Industrial Revolution. It is needed, as there have been no recently published revisions to the major reference texts used by CWT collectors, the Fuld books on patriotic and storecard tokens. Perhaps as a poke in the eye to the long-suffering Storecard Book Revision Committee of the Civil War Token Society, Mr. Bowers conceived this reviewed book and, with his significant resources, pushed the book to completion in what appeared to me to be less than a year.

The book itself is 438 pages and printed on glossy paper. It is sized as all of the other books from Whitman in this series, and is therefore heavy in the hand. If used as a working copy, I'm sure the glued binding of the softcover edition will not hold up long.

The book has a foreword by Fred Reed, a charter member of the Civil War Token Society and an excellent numismatic author in his own right. One of the best parts of this book immediately follows: the Reminiscence by George Fuld, the junior half of the father-and-son team who in the early 1960s brought forth the initial reference books on the subject. These books, affectionately known as the "little black books" of CWT collecting, were also published by Whitman and were sorely incomplete

by today's standards. With the very recent passing of Dr. Fuld this *Reminiscence* becomes one of his last words on the subject, if not the last. The Introduction by Mr. Bowers is more a history of his interest in token collecting than an introduction to the book itself. This may be a stylistic preference, but I would rather have seen a story on the evolution of the book.

The book's seven chapters can be roughly divided into three parts. The first five chapters are a shining testament to the brilliant story-telling and research capabilities of Mr. Bowers. In my opinion, these pages are worth the price itself. They represent the full story of the sequence of events leading up to the necessity for the creation of substitute money, the players, the products, and the geography of distributions. He further delves into the acceptance in American society of the emergence of substitute money and the response of the federal government. These stories are simply fascinating.

The bulk of the book resides in Chapters 6 and 7, on the tokens themselves. Appropriately divided along the classic distinction of patriotic and storecard types, Bowers seeks to list all the combinations as well as recent grade-dependent values. Here the book stumbles a bit, and is perhaps reflective of the apparent rush to print. The narrative for each token is brief, as expected, but the grade/price listings are not in an easily recognizable or decipherable format. While clearly this is an effort to save space, it is not a common convention for this information and detracts from the overall readability. Rarity ratings are listed only for selected tokens, and the various metal issues are not mentioned at all. Strikingly, many tokens are unrepresented by photographs. This may be the biggest downfall of the book. Experts will bypass these sections in favor of the more complete Fuld reference texts. Beginners will have trouble deciphering what they have. This could have the opposite effects of either whetting their appetites or curtailing their passion for CWTs. Those of us who recommend this book (as I have and will continue to do) will need to support those newcomers to the hobby.

The final portions of the book return us to Bowers' strengths. The appendices discuss the outliers to the series. Token engravers, those tokens no longer considered Civil War-era issues, alternative substitute money, mavericks, etc., all receive due attention.

This book will find a place of great interest on many a bookshelf. CWT collectors and bibliophiles alike will appreciate the inimitable

writing style of Mr. Bowers, while the book imparts much useful information and a demonstration of a genuine passion for this niche collecting hobby. While there are some detractors to the text, it is overall quite worthy of a detailed examination in the comfort of one's own home.

—Scott A. Blickensderfer
President, Civil War Token Society

Help Promote the Numismatic Bibliomania Society

Howard A. Daniel III sets up a club table to represent the Numismatic Bibliomania Society (and the International Bank Note Society, Numismatics International, Numismatic Literary Guild, and several other organizations) at the MPC Fest, the International Paper Money Show, and the summer FUN Show. Howard will no longer set up at American Numismatic Association events and the January FUN Show.

The Asylum and NBS membership applications are given to numismatists interested in our society from the table. Journals and applications from other societies are also given out.

There are also world bank notes and coins to give to young and new numismatists in a packet which includes a consolidated membership application form for all of the groups. References are also given out, especially to teachers and scout counselors for them to use with their students and scouts.

Howard always needs volunteers to staff the table and needs your unwanted references, journals, world banknotes, and/or world coins. Please contact him at hadaniel3@msn.com to make donation arrangements. The best method is to take them to him at one of the shows or events he attends, otherwise you can mail them to him. Howard will reply with a thank-you letter which will describe the donation for tax purposes.

Karl V. Moulton, *John J. Ford, Jr. and the "Franklin Hoard"*. Congress, Ariz.: Karl V. Moulton, 2013.

Karl V. Moulton's *John J. Ford, Jr. and the "Franklin Hoard"* is a book that has received a lot of attention but minimal insight. The clear cause of this neglect is the book's length: at 924 pages, the volume wears the reader out, detracting from its purpose "to present, in an objective manner, the untold side of the 'Franklin Hoard' story". The book could have been shorter and would be better for it. This said, the length is a perfect proxy for the intensity and dedication with which the author has approached the subject.

With recent discoveries, there is no longer any doubt that the U.S. Assay Office \$20 gold pieces as well as many of the gold bars handled by Ford in the 1960s and 1970s were false. The pivotal question has been whether Ford knew he was selling fakes or whether he allowed himself to be duped by others. Moulton's book does not answer this question directly—one looks in vain through the 924 pages for a smoking gun. However, there is no doubt as to where the author stands on this issue, and he supports his belief by including a wealth of material that reflects on Ford's character. Ford comes across as a bullying sharpster, a dealer who price-gouges, lies, and manipulates. The evidence supporting these attributes is voluminous, such that the reader is forced to conclude that the man was capable of just about anything. Amazingly, most of the evidence is directly from Ford himself, through extensive correspondence that seems to have been released for sale by his heirs without studying its implications. The result is a wealth of fascinating detail that will probably never be equaled by any account of the life of a professional numismatist.

Though himself believing the worst, the author includes much that is exculpatory. After encountering his first gold bar in 1952, Ford embarks on a frenzied search for information on the days of the Gold Rush, including obscure directories, newspaper archives, and visits to ghost towns. One could argue that these were merely preparations for becoming a better forger, but our sense for the evidence presented is that here was a man attempting to build a specialty that would provide an edge in competing against Stack's, Art Kagin (Hollinbeck Coin Company), Abe Kosoff, and others of the numismatic elite.

The major weakness of the book—and we will get to its many strengths that more than offset—is a tendency toward revisionist history. Yes, we know now that the U.S.A.O.G. twenties were forged but, back in 1966–67, this was a hotly debated subject. Eric Newman made a brilliant (and courageous) presentation to the PNG arbitration panel, but Ford’s rebuttal was equally brilliant, demonstrating some palpable mistakes in Newman’s argument. This was not a case, as Moulton would have us believe, of the stooge Lester Merkin hanging the jury. Rather, there was a lengthy list of numismatic luminaries including Walter Breen, Don Taxay, Don Kagin, and the Stacks who backed Ford’s position. We come away from these pivotal events not questioning the material’s authenticity but admiring Newman’s raw courage in maintaining a lonely position with nothing to gain therefrom. The man has done everything in his numismatic career but, in our opinion, this was Eric Newman’s finest hour.

Moving chronologically, it is not until the year 2006 and page 803 that Moulton describes David McCarthy’s seminal discovery of the host coin from which the dies for the false U.S.A.O.G. twenties were cast. Game, set, and match. At this point, we would have enjoyed a review of the steps in the production process along with speculation about who/how/when these extraordinary forgeries were made. In his review of the book, John Kleeberg speculates that the role of Gerow Paul Franklin is muted throughout in return for the cooperation given the author by Franklin’s son, Paul Franklin (throughout the book, the author uses “Gerow Paul” and plain “Paul” to differentiate). This speculation is certainly supported by the lack of a *post mortem* at this point in the book. The extraordinarily high quality of the forgeries points to someone with the senior Franklin’s technical credentials, added to which he was present at each point when the material is “discovered”.

The strengths of *John J. Ford, Jr. and the “Franklin Hoard”* are many. The eleven-page(!) bibliography reflects how broadly Moulton cast his net. Not only did he consult books, auction catalogues, periodicals, and correspondence in staggering profusion, but he sifted these with great care to reveal inconsistencies, prevarications, and overlapping relationships. The time required to bring order to all this material must have been staggering, added to which the sheer complexity involved in organizing the data reveals a mind of the first rank. Moreover, the whole task seems to have been *pro bono publico* in a numismatic sense, as the

cost of accomplishing this Herculean task must certainly outweigh any prospect for gain.

In throwing the spotlight on John J. Ford, Jr., and the pioneer gold which he handled, Moulton was tackling a delicate subject. Many of the pieces in question remain in private hands and perhaps even more reside in the Lilly Collection in the National Numismatic Collection housed in the Smithsonian. With great care, the author showed his manuscript or parts thereof to leading numismatists including Eric Newman, Richard Doty, and Dan Owens. He went one step further vetting his ideas with known admirers of John Ford, such as Don Kagin, Michael Hodder, and Q. David Bowers. It is rare that a writer exposes his work so broadly before publication and, clearly, the final product has benefitted from this openness. Dave Bowers, for one, revised his opinion of Ford based on this book and was saddened to read Ford's own self-condemning words.

Moulton's *John J. Ford, Jr. and the "Franklin Hoard"* can be enjoyed at many levels. As we have now fully entered the digital age with its concomitant use of ephemeral e-mails, this may be the last book that can access paper correspondence. As a result, and thanks to the string-saving nature of John Ford, the reader can view communications involving just about every major figure in the hobby. There are candid comments by the bushel basket and also displayed are the many tricks of the trade as practiced by the protagonist. The resulting menu will appeal to those with an interest in history, as well as to those with an interest in gossip.

To explain the appeal of the Old West, the author includes a wealth of material on Charles Diehl, Kenyon Painter, Henry Clifford, and many others involved in seeking out lost mines and buried treasure. Some of these were sources of the material that Franklin gathered. Some were actually involved in "creating" artifacts that would appeal to those stricken with Gold Rush fever; others were eager buyers. The point that there were many hands ready to dip into one's pocket is not lost.

Specialists will appreciate the exhaustive listing of gold bars known before 1950 and those that appeared after. The considerable effort required to compile these listings is yet another reflection of the diligence of the author.

At the end of the day, the reader of *John J. Ford, Jr. and the "Franklin Hoard"* is, as the author intended, left to draw his or her own conclusions on the nature of the man. Did he know that some of the recently

discovered material was false? Did he find out sooner? Later? Did he never know? John Ford was an important numismatist and, perforce, these are important questions. Thanks to the Herculean labors of Karl Moulton, we can make these determinations on our own. Not everyone will come to the same conclusion, but none will fail for lack of evidence.

If the expenditure of \$250 is not too painful, then this book is a “must read”. The knowledge and entertainment to be derived will repay the price many times over. It can be ordered at numiscats@aol.com.

—*John W. Adams*

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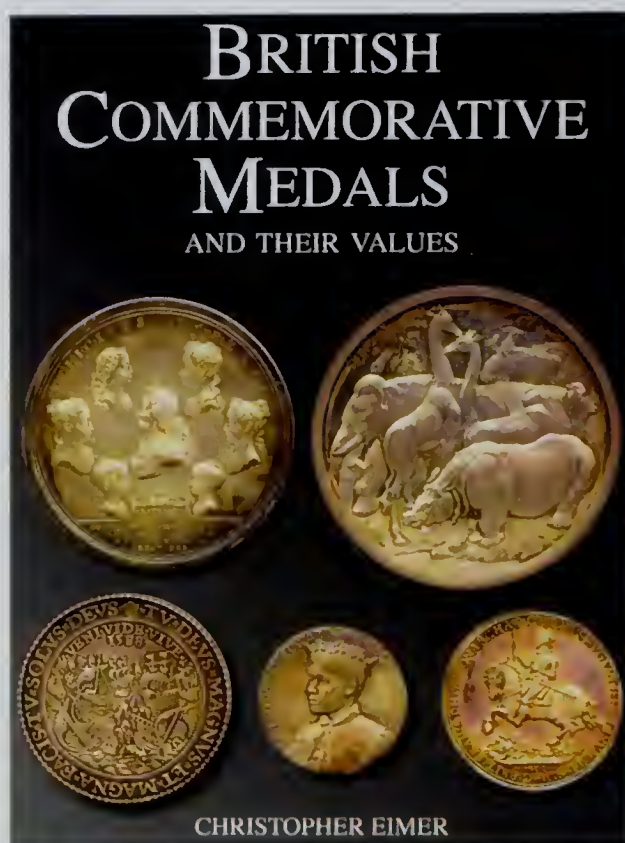
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